

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the hydrogenation and/or dehalogenation of [α -olefin] polyalphaolefin to provide a substantially hydrogenated and/or substantially dehalogenated polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer, the process comprising hydrogenating and/or dehalogenating at least one polymerized α -olefin under catalytic hydrogenation and/or dehalogenation conditions in the presence of hydrogen and a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising a metal component on an inorganic material based support wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the α -olefin of the polyalphaolefin contains from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the α -olefin of the polyalphaolefin contains from about 6 to about 12 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the α -olefin of the polyalphaolefin is 1-decene.

5. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the metal component of the catalyst is one or more Group VIII metals of the Periodic Table selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, and salts thereof.

6. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the inorganic support is a material selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina and silica-alumina.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst is palladium on a silica-alumina support.

8. (Withdrawn) A substantially hydrogenated and/or substantially dehalogenated polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer obtained from the polymerization of at least one α -olefin, the process comprising hydrogenating and/or dehalogenating the α -olefin under catalytic hydrogenating and/or dehalogenating conditions in the presence of hydrogen and a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenating/dehalogenating catalyst comprising a metal component on an inorganic material based support.

9. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 wherein the α -olefin contains from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms.

10. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 wherein the α -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene and combinations thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 wherein the metal component of the catalyst is one or more Group VIII metals of the Periodic Table selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, and salts thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 wherein the inorganic support is a material selected from the group consisting of silica, alumina and silica-alumina.

13. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 wherein the amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst is palladium on a silica-alumina support.

14. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 possessing an iodine number of from about 0.5 to about 10.

15. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 possessing a halogen content of from about 1 to about 200 ppm.

16. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 8 possessing an iodine number of from about 0.5 to about 10 and a halogen content of from about 1 to about 200 ppm.

17. (Withdrawn) The polyalphaolefin of Claim 13 possessing an iodine number of from about 1 to about 8 and a halogen content of from about 3 to about 100 ppm.

18. (Withdrawn) A lubricating oil composition comprising a lubricating oil and a viscosity-modifying amount of the polyalphaolefin of Claim 8.

19. (Withdrawn) A lubricating oil composition comprising a lubricating oil and a viscosity-modifying amount of the polyalphaolefin of Claim 16.

20. (Withdrawn) A lubricating oil composition comprising a lubricating oil and a viscosity-modifying amount of the polyalphaolefin of Claim 17.

21. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.05 to about 3 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst.

22. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 1.5 to about 2.5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst.

23. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst has a particle size distribution having particles greater than about 250 microns and particles less than about 75 microns.